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Let's Hear it for Commencement: Two Students To Speak

By Michael Johnson
Whalesong Staff

Barbara Morgan grew up in a town of 50, so it shouldn't come as a surprise that she loves biology. Indeed, in Edna Bay, Alaska, if you can't form a relationship with nature you'll end up creating a few dozen imaginary friends who will continuously diminish your Corona supply, most without chipping in. Fortunately for this Sunday's UAS graduation commencement attendees, though Morgan was her "entire high school graduating class," she has embraced the natural sciences, and consequently will deliver her speech without a single invisible interruption. Probably.

Morgan is one of two selected graduating student speakers at May 4th's ceremony, held in downtown's Centennial Hall at 2 p.m.

The other speaker, Hans Chester, was unavailable for an interview at press time.

One must wonder, with numerous competent UASers graduating this spring, just how the heck did this pair get picked for such an honor?

Well, first off, you have to be nominated by a professor. In Morgan's case, she was first approached by Biology professor Sherry Tamone, who asked whether Morgan would accept the distinction (deliver a speech if chosen). When Morgan consented, Professor Mike Stekoll and Tamone officially nominated her, and the rest, they say, is history. Or at least it will be after Sunday afternoon. But why did the professors even want to nominate Morgan in the first place?

This is one question Morgan didn't take long to figure out: "Because I'm a success story for UAS. I grew up in southeast Alaska, my whole college career was at UAS, and I'm continuing on in the Masters in Arts and Teaching Program," she said, adding seconds later, "...and I have a decent GPA." Just so there are no riots started by other graduates, "decent" for Morgan is about a 5.3. Morgan also commented, "I'm one of those students who doesn't have a life because I study so much." Or maybe it is because she grew up with starfish and thus finds humans repugnant. Either way, she is one learned woman who deserves to be at the podium on Sunday.

Hans Chester was nominated for many of the same reasons. He also grew up in Southeast Alaska (Juneau), stayed here for his college experience and excelled scholastically. In addition to being an outstanding student, he has spent time in front of the classroom as well.

Last fall Chester taught a Tlingit language and culture class to about 30 Juneau-Douglas High School Students in the Early Scholars Program. He has also made the most of the opportunities available at UAS, participating in numerous Native student organizations and activities during his time here.

So, good, we have two star pupils delivering commencement speeches. But what will they talk about?



Photo courtesy of Michael Johnson
Barbara Morgan will be speaking this Sunday for graduation.

It turns out that Morgan wants to send a thematic message to all those who attend. Yes, Morgan will talk about "college experiences" and "personal history" (enter starfish and make-believe friends), but she is aiming to centralize her speech around these encouraging words: "persistence is key." Though she was quick to inform that her speech was still "a work in progress," it is clear that Morgan wants to stress the harsh reality that, to get what you want, you can't give up. But no doubt she'll put it far more eloquently, something like "to get-ith what you want-ith, you can't-ith give-ith up-ith." Or something close to that.

Centennial Hall expects you on Sunday. Support your peers, cheer your friends. Go listen to a few speeches that might inspire you to fill Morgan's prestigious shoes when next year rolls around.

Summer Housing Storage

By Omar Casillas
Whalesong Contributor

The end of the semester is just around the corner, but for many UAS housing students, the hassle of moving out of their apartments can be very stressful. As students discover that they have accumulated many things over the school year, finding what to do with them over the summer may become a problem. In previous years, returning housing students were given the option of storing their belongings on campus. However, due to problems in the past, Student Housing has decided to do away with summer storage this year.

In previous years, returning housing students were charged a \$50 fee for the use of storage space on campus. This fee covered the cost of changing the locks on storage room doors at the beginning of the summer. However, as the housing units are rented out during the summer months, Student Housing has found this service is more trouble than it is worth. In addition to liability concerns, Student Housing has had to cover the cost of shipping for students who had decided on returning in the fall but later changed their minds, said Amanda R. Knerr, Residence Life Manager.

Still, the lack of summer storage is of particular concern for students who are planning on going home or simply not planning on sticking around Juneau during the summer months. As one returning housing student says, "Juneau is so isolated. You have to fly or take the ferry, and nobody can take all their things home." Many housing students are finding themselves in a similar bind as the end of the school year approaches.

Student Housing is aware of the inconvenience this poses for students, and is taking steps to alleviate the situation. Presently, Student Housing is in the process of negotiating a possible discount rate for students at Juneau Self-Storage in downtown Juneau. Current rates for standard units range from \$42 a month for a 5-by-5 unit to \$144.76 a month for a 10-by-20 unit. Students are encouraged to group themselves together as a way of minimizing the cost for each person. The housing staff is also considering the use of a housing van for students without a way of transporting their belongings to and from the storage facility.

Student Housing will also be hosting an end of the year garage sale on April 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the housing lodge. This will allow some students to lighten their load by getting rid of some unnecessary belongings.

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OVERSIZE

The Whalesong

The student voice
of UAS

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The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, *The Whalesong*, is a free bi-monthly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

The Whalesong will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of *The Whalesong* values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. *The Whalesong* editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

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Student Assistant IV-Whalesong Editor

This position will provide editorial and production direction and supervise student reporters working for the campus newspaper, *The Whalesong*. \$1000/semester plus tuition waiver.

Student Assistant IV-Whalesong Production Manager

This position will work with the Whalesong Editor, Advertising Manager and reporting staff to produce pages for production of the student newspaper. He/She will coordinate the production schedule and proofread the final copy. The Production Manager will also be responsible for on-campus and community distribution of printed paper, and posting issues on the campus web site. \$500/semester plus tuition waiver.

Student Assistant IV-Whalesong Advertising Manager

This position will act as the sales manager for advertising in the student paper. This person will solicit new advertising accounts, create ads and provide invoices to Business Services for appropriate billing. Must be able to track accounts and produce reports showing invoice and final ad copy for audit purposes. \$9.25/hour plus 15% sales commission.

Call Kirk McAllister - 465-6473

Letters to the Editor

The Whalesong gladly accepts letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 300 words, and may be edited for length, clarity, and grammar. Letters must be signed and include a means of contact for verification. Send your letters to 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801, whalesong@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Mourant Bldg.

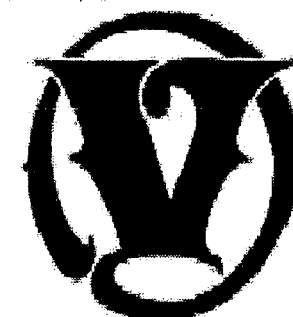
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